**North Africa, Tobruk**

* **Where?**

Australia first officially fought in Tobruk, North Africa in 1940.

* **Against whom?**

They fought against the Italian’s who had taken over parts of Egypt and Libya. As they fought they advanced towards the British in Egypt however while with the British in Egypt Hitler sent his German troops to North Africa to help the Italians.

* **Why were Australians there?**

The Royal Australian Navy defended Tobruk from the Germans. They supplied vessels for Tobruk to defend their naval base. The German’s wanted Tobruk for a supply base so they could take over Egypt. Australia was there to stop them from proceeding any further.

* **What happened to the Australians serving there?**
  + German’s were called ‘rats in a trap’. So the Australian’s named themselves ‘the

Rats of Tobruk’.

* + In October and September 1941 many Australian’s were withdrawn from Tobruk.
  + While Australian’s were in Tobruk other Asutralian’s were in Greece to help Britain so we didn’t have as many soldiers.
  + The fighting in North Africa came to a climax in October 1942, the great battle in El Alamein.

